

REMARKS

In the Action, the Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following:

Group I Claims 1-18 are drawn to Group I, and classified in class 114, subclass 72. The invention in this group comprises a vessel having displacing means and winches;

Group II Claims 19-26 are drawn to Group II, and classified in class 405, subclass 203. The invention in this group comprises a method of handling a wind turbine by using a vessel, wherein the wind turbine comprises a ballasting means (claims 19 and 25), as well as a nacelle and rotor blades (claim 19);

Group III Claims 27-37 are drawn to Group III, and classified in class 290, subclass 55. The invention of this group comprises a wind turbine having specific structural elements, such as a nacelle, rotor blades, and ballast chambers; or

Group IV. Claims 38-41 are drawn to Group IV, and classified in class 290, subclass 44. This invention of this group comprises a method of building an offshore wind farm with an electric grid.

Group I is elected with traverse, for the reasons presented below.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 6, and 8, to more distinctly claim the invention.

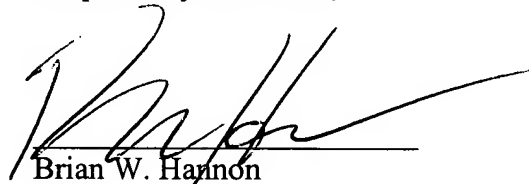
Specifically, Applicant has added to claim 1 the feature of changing the ballast condition of the wind turbine base at the unloading position.

In view of the Amendment to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement, at least with respect to Groups I and II, is improper. More specifically, in the Office Action, the Examiner states that “the product as claimed [in Group I] can be used in a materially different process [Group II] of using that product which does not require a ballasting of the base.” In view of the above amendment to claim 1, it is submitted that the Examiner’s

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justification for restricting these two groups is no longer proper because claim 1 now requires changing the ballast condition of the base. Thus, it is requested that at least Groups I and II be examined together in the subject application. Certainly, there would be no added burden to the Examiner in view of the similarity in scope of these two groups. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement with respect to Groups III and IV, as it is believed that there would be little or no added burden in examining these groups as well.

Respectfully submitted,



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